

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for managing data communication on a network coupled to first nodes and second nodes comprising:

controlling a first time period for one or more first data transmissions on the network wherein the first nodes are permitted to transmit data during the first time periods and the second nodes are not permitted to transmit data during the first time period by causing the second nodes to treat the first time period as a single transmission period;~~and~~

controlling the first data transmissions during the first time periods by the first nodes such that the first data transmissions overlap; and

sending non-informative data in the first data transmissions during the overlap.

2. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 ~~or 7,~~ wherein the single transmission period appears to the second nodes as a transmission of a single packet of data.

3. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 ~~or 7,~~ wherein the single transmission period appears to the second nodes as a single collision resolve process.

4. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 ~~or 7,~~ further comprising controlling an inter-frame gap between the first data transmissions by the first nodes during the

first time period such that the second nodes treat the first time period as a single transmission period.

5. (Cancelled).

6. (Cancelled).

7. (Currently Amended) ~~The method of claim 1A~~ method for managing data communication on a network coupled to first nodes and second nodes comprising:

controlling a first time period for one or more first data transmissions on the network, wherein each of the first data transmissions have a beginning, an end and a transmitted power level, and wherein the first nodes are permitted to transmit data during the first time periods and the second nodes are not permitted to transmit data during the first time period by causing the second nodes to treat the first time period as a single transmission period;

~~said method further comprising:~~ controlling the transmitted power level at the end of each of the first data transmissions so that the variation between the transmitted power level at the end of each of the first data transmissions and the beginning of each of the next of the first data transmissions is such that the second nodes do not sense an energy drop between the first data transmissions.

8. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 ~~or 7,~~ further comprising controlling a second time period for one or more consecutive second data transmissions on the network wherein the first nodes and the second nodes are permitted to transmit data during the second time period.

9. (Original) The method of claim 8 further comprising supporting contention based operation during the second time period.

10. (Currently Amended) A network manager for managing data communications on a network comprising:

a controller for controlling a first time period for one or more first data transmissions on the network wherein the first nodes are permitted to transmit data during the first time periods and the second nodes are not permitted to transmit data during the first time period by causing the second nodes to treat the first time period as a single transmission period; and

controlling the first data transmissions during the first time periods by the first nodes such that the first data transmissions overlap; and

sending non-informative data in the first data transmissions during the overlap.

.11 (Previously Presented). A method for managing data communication on a network coupled to first nodes and second nodes comprising:

controlling a first time period for one or more fist data transmissions on the network wherein the first nodes are permitted to transmit data during the first time periods and the second nodes are not permitted to transmit data during the first time period by causing the second nodes to treat the first time period as a single transmission period; wherein each of the first data transmissions have a beginning, an end and a transmitted power level;

and controlling the transmitted power level at the end of each of the first data transmissions such that the variation between the transmitted power level at the end of each of the first data transmissions and the beginning of each of the next of the first data transmissions is such that the second nodes do not sense an energy drop between the first data transmissions.

12 (Previously Presented). The method of claim 11, further comprising:
controlling the first data transmissions during the first time periods by the
first nodes such that the first data transmissions overlap.